



May 2010

Planting day brings community together

On Wednesday May 26 green-fingered volunteers will plant more than 1600 trees alongside the Mangapiko Stream between Montefiore Reserve and Fonterra's Te Awamutu site.

The planting day continues the restoration work driven by the Lower Mangapiko Streamcare Group which began in 2008 and focuses on restoring the natural environment along the stream. The Group prepared for the planting over summer by clearing Willow and Walnut trees alongside the stream which were put through a chipper and recycled into mulch.

Lower Mangapiko Streamcare Group Secretary Betsy Bryant, says they have a lot of community support for the planting including both Te Awamutu Primary School and College, St Patricks Catholic School, Fonterra's Te Awamutu site and Catchment Care initiative, Te Wananga o Aotearoa, Honda Treefund, Trees for Survival, Environment Waikato, Waikato Catchment Ecological Trust, Waipa District Council and Environment Waikato. Trust Waikato and Lion Foundation have contributed funding for clearing works

"It's fantastic to see the support for our vision to restore and stabilise the bank alongside the Mangapiko Stream and create an ecological corridor".

"This work protects water quality, enhances our natural environment, provides valuable habitat and empowers our local community to achieve long term sustainable management of one of our most precious resources."

The planting day makes use of the 'Trees for Survival' unit at St Patricks School which helps students grow native plants. The unit was sponsored by Fonterra and the School are in their second year of growing seedlings, all of which have been planted at the Reserve. Te Awamutu's Phillips Nursery has also been supporting St Patrick's School and Te Awamutu College by supplying tiny seedlings for the Schools to grow on to a plantable size. Of the 1600 trees being planted, 600 plants are from St Patricks School and Te Awamutu College, and 1000 plants from Honda Treefund.

Fonterra's Te Awamutu Environmental Team Lead, Sarah Pond, says they're a big part of the local community with the site and several Fonterra farms backing onto the stream, so it's important for them support the vision which enhances both water quality and the local environment.

"We're also pleased to have the support of Catchment Care, a Fonterra initiative in partnership with Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, which focuses on improving riparian and wetland water catchments in dairying regions."

Catchment Care volunteers will attend in the afternoon to help plant and team up with students from local schools.

Other sponsors to date include Te Wananga o Aotearoa, , Environment Waikato and Waikato Catchment Environmental Enhancement Trust (WCEET). The sponsors have met the costs of willow tree removal and weed control (over the next 3 years), which is key in establishing the area and ensuring the survival of trees planted.

Event timing and details:

Meet at 9.30 am at Montefiore Reserve on the corner of Racecourse and Factory Roads. Afternoon planting will start at 1p.m

Volunteers must bring a spade and wear good footwear. Planting is expected to finish by early afternoon.

RSVP to: Betsy Bryant on 07 871 8989 or Limavady@farmside.co.nz, or; Sarah Pond on 07 871 2376 or sarah.pond@fonterra.com

About Catchment Care

Fonterra's Catchment Care programme is a partnership with non-profit organisation, Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, to provide support for practical water-catchment care projects across New Zealand. The programme focuses on projects that enhance and protect waterways and wetlands, and involves riparian planting, fencing, removal of invasive species, weeding and rubbish clean-ups. Visit www.catchmentcare.co.nz for more information.

About Honda Treefund

Honda New Zealand and its agent network fund the planting of 13 native trees for every new Honda sold and Honda owners are encouraged to contribute to the fund, as are members of the wider public who can donate at their local Honda agent. Visit <add website details> for more information.

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About the Waikato Ecological Enhancement Trust

The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) assists organisations, agencies and individuals with projects that foster and enhance the sustainable management of ecological resources in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments. Visit www.wceet.org.nz for more information

For more information please contact : Lower Mangapiko Straemcare roup <title> Betsy Bryant on 07 871 8989 or email Limavady@farmside.co.nz